

STATE SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Summary – March 22, 2005

Bob Schille called the meeting to order. Following introductions, the minutes from January's meeting were approved.

SWAC Officers Election & Membership

The SWAC members voted and it was unanimous that Steve Wamback will serve as chair and Dean Large will serve as vice chair. Thanks go to Jeff Kelley-Clarke and Bob Schille as the outgoing Chair and Vice Chair.

Recycling (Gretchen Newman)

Gretchen reported the 2003 results of the Recycling Survey (Recycling and Diversion Measurement). 2003 was the first year the requirements were in effect for exempt recycling facilities, although they were not enforced. Diversion has been measured since 1999, along with Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Recycling. 2003 shows a 38% MSW recycling rate and a 47% diversion rate. MSW recycling rate increased 3% from 2002 to 2003. Key reasons for the increase include better reporting in the metals category, booming metals market, good paper markets and more yard debris collection programs. The trend has increased of total tons of waste disposed and recycled, as well as individual amounts (per capita) disposed and recycled. The 2004 numbers will come out in September 2005.

Litter Survey (Vicki Colgan)

According to the 2004 Litter Survey results, overall litter has decreased on roadways and interchanges across Washington, from an estimated 8939 tons annually in 1999 to 6325 tons annually in 2004, reported Vicki Colgan, the Project Coordinator for the 2004 Litter Survey.

In her 20-minute presentation on the status of this statewide effort, she explained that the 2004 study was similar to the one done in 1999 but concentrated on interstate, state routes, county roads and interchanges only, since these sites would be the most likely to show changes in littering behavior. Statistical tests were run to detect and quantify the changes between the two study years. Results from one-sided paired t-tests show statistically significant declines in commodities such as beverage and fast-food containers and strong downward trends in litter on county roads and interchanges.

Vicki also arrived with three litter pizzas, two with "toppings" - representing in 3-D composition models of litter found in 2004 versus the composition in 1999 on Washington's roadways. The full report of the 2004 Litter Survey will be published by mid-April and available at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/swfa.html>.

Beyond Waste Update (Cheryl Smith)

Cheryl handed out an updated status report on Beyond Waste implementation (see e-mail attachments) and briefed the SWAC on recent activities.

Comments from SWAC about these activities are listed below:

Closed landfills/dumps: This effort will begin with Ecology staff gathering existing information about locations of closed and abandoned landfills and dump sites. It is not clear to staff that this issue is a high priority for local governments across the state at this time, especially with competing demands for resources. Therefore, a statewide identification effort may not be the best course of action right now.

In response to this explanation, SWAC members commented that addressing these sites has been a high priority throughout the Beyond Waste planning process, and was also listed as a high priority at the Solid Waste Summit in 2004. An observation was made that this issue might be more pressing in larger, growing counties. It was also noted that addressing these sites is timely because of the work currently being done on tire piles. Ecology was also urged to work with health departments to allocate resources to locate all of these sites, despite the fact that resources are already stretched.

Cheryl was directed by the SWAC to reconvene the workgroup that developed the issue paper on landfills for the Beyond Waste plan. This group should develop recommendations for moving forward on this effort.

Residential green building web site: As part of the effort to offer a website on residential green building, SWAC suggested that staff look into and take advantage of the high quality green building information already available on King County's and Seattle's web sites.

Beyond Waste Current System Background Paper (Cheryl Smith)

The SWAC workgroup that will help develop this background paper has yet to meet, but will do so before the May SWAC meeting. Jim Bill and Cheryl redrafted the paper's purpose statement based on discussion at the January SWAC meeting. They handed out a document (see e-mail attachments) that includes the redrafted purpose statement as well as a summary of solid waste-related information that Ecology collects. Cheryl asked SWAC to look at the purpose statement and send in any comments as soon as possible, and before the workgroup meets. SWAC members reaffirmed the decision to develop this background paper, despite the fact that it will serve, at best as an informal baseline of how solid waste is managed in Washington today. Nonetheless, it will be important information, both for historical purposes, and also as a good description of today's system.

The workgroup members are: Steve Wambach, Suellen Mele, Brad Lovaas, Gene Eckhardt, Art Starry, Angela Rae, Cheryl Smith, and Jim Bill.

SWAC members also discussed the work being done to establish specific performance indicators for Beyond Waste initiatives. SWAC is interested in being briefed on this effort, and also in discussing and commenting on proposed performance indicators. Cheryl was directed to work with Cullen and Steve on the best time and approach for bringing this issue to SWAC. In addition to the summary of solid waste data (noted above), a larger document about data collected by Ecology will also be sent to SWAC (see e-mail attachments) attached). This longer document is in table format and it contains more detailed descriptions about both solid waste and hazardous waste information.

Mercury in Landfills (Cullen Stephenson)

Ecology received a Public Disclosure Request to see the study done on mercury emissions from eight landfills. We had granted confidentiality to some of the facilities. Upon review, our Assistant Attorney General found that the requests did not meet the requirements of the state disclosure laws. We sent the study to the affected facilities for their attorney review, and got the OK to disclose the information.

The lesson here is to be very careful with confidentiality requests. Unless there is a competitive or proprietary reason, we cannot hold information confidential. We believe that most of our recycling information can be confidential, as there are obvious competitive issues with disclosing sources and amounts in many instances.

Legislative Update (Cullen Stephenson)

Governor's Budget: Cullen mentioned that the Governor's budget came out on March 21. The Beyond Waste Budget Add is 1.9M State Toxics, .8 M Litter and 1.7 M Hazardous Waste Assistance Account. The Governor's budget transfers 2 M out of the Litter Fund to the General Fund.

Cullen also mentioned that the Governor has promised to cut 1,000 middle manager positions. Ecology is being asked to cut 44.

Local Toxics Fund: Remedial Action - \$42 M, CPG \$17 M plus \$5-6 M additional for Beyond Waste

Carcass Bill: Composting cows! Feedlots have been a big concern since the mad cow incident last December. Rendering is now much more expensive. They are looking for ways to compost cows on their limited land. While we support composting, there are several issues to work out to make it a viable, safe, and effective option. It takes about 90 days to compost 1 cow.

Tire Bill: Reinstates the \$1.00 tire fee. The tire money will go to cleanup efforts and some road maintenance.

Round Table

SWAC discussed drafting 2 letters to Ecology's new director, Jay Manning. The first letter is opposing the transfer of \$2 Million from the Litter Fund to the General Fund. The second letter formally expresses SWAC's support for the concepts and goals of the Beyond Waste Plan. **[NOTE: These letters were drafted and delivered to the director on April 4, 2005.]**

Angela Rae: The 25th Anniversary WSRA Conference is coming up in May.

Sego Jackson: The Mercury Switch Bill passed in Arkansas. Also, King County and Ecology came up with funding to help school districts with their recycling programs.

Ken Colling: Asked if presenters at future SWAC meetings could send information well ahead of time so SWAC has a little more lead time for review.

Chris Luboff: Seattle adopted its 2004 Solid Waste Plan.

Lorie Hewitt: We have a Memorandum of Understanding with SWANA regarding operator certification. We may need to do another rule to get changes to be consistent.

Cullen Stephenson: The rule revision for soils has been done. It will be effective late April or early May.

Steve Wamback: Asked SWAC for feedback on future agenda topics. Also, Steve mentioned that Pierce County is in the 7th week of their single car recycling program.

Attendees:

1. Dennis Hein, City of Spokane	19. Norm LeMay, LeMay, Inc.
2. Jim Matsuyama, NE Tri-County Health	20. Doug LeMay, LeMay, Inc.
3. Dennis Durbin, Stevens Co.	21. Clif Finch, Wash. Food Ind.
4. Dean Large, WCI, SW Wash.	22. Gene Eckhardt, WA Util. & Transp.
5. Pete Keller, Rabanco	23. Eddie Westmoreland, WCI
6. Bob Schille, Waste Mgmt Inc.	24. Suellen Mele, WCRC
7. Chris Luboff, City of Seattle	25. Craig Lorch, Total Reclaim
8. Brad Lovaas, WRRRA	26. Jerry Hard-Beck, WMI
9. Ken Colling, Goodwill Ind.	27. Cullen Stephenson, Ecology
10. Tiffany Hatch, Goodwill Inc.	28. Lorie Hewitt, Ecology
11. Angela Rae, WSA	29. Cheryl Smith, Ecology
12. Jerry Smedes, Smedes & Assoc	30. Vicki Colgan (Speaker-Ecology)
13. Theresa Jennings, King County	31. Gretchen Newman (Speaker-Ecology)
14. Sego Jackson, Snohomish Co.	32. Jim Bill, Ecology
15. Jody Snyder, LRI	
16. Steve Wamback, Pierce County	
17. Bill Dean, Thurston County	
18. Art Starry, Thurston County	